

SALT REFINERIES

*626. **Shri Raghavaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the number of salt refineries in this country?

(b) How many are in Andhra?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) 31, as far as Government are aware.

(b) One, at Kanuparti in Guntur District.

Shri Raghavaiah: What is the installed capacity of this refinery, and what is the actual quantity refined there?

Shri R. G. Dubey: The capacity of this particular refinery is 35,000 maunds of refined salt, and 8,400 maunds of solar salt.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether any subsidy is given to this refinery in Andhra?

Shri R. G. Dubey: No. No subsidy is given to any refinery.

Shri Raghavaiah: Are Government aware of the deteriorating condition of this particular refinery in Guntur district?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Yes. In the beginning, this particular refinery was allowed to function on the basis that they would manufacture only refined salt. Subsequently they placed their difficulties before the Salt Experts Committee. In the light of the recommendations of that Committee, Government have relaxed the licence conditions, and now they are allowed to manufacture both refined and solar salt.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether in view of the fact that this particular refinery is not producing salt at present, Government propose to give these lands to some co-operative institutions and thus enable them to produce salt which could be refined in this refinery?

Shri R. G. Dubey: I could not answer such a question.

SILK INDUSTRY

*628. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant given by the Central Silk Board for the development of silk industry during 1953-54; and

(b) how much has been sanctioned to the State of Mysore during this period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 11,88,545.

(b) Rs. 4,05,500.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether any amount lapsed because the Board did not utilise that amount this year?

Shri Karmarkar: This is one continuous process of assistance. Even if some amount has lapsed technically, it is made up...

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The year has not ended.

Shri Karmarkar: I stand corrected. The year has not ended. So no amount can lapse now.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, how much amount is allotted for research work and how much for non-research work—for development purposes?

Shri Karmarkar: For Mysore I find regarding research, we have allotted Rs. 52,500 and the rest on the remaining items.

Shri Muniswamy: How many times did the Central Silk Board meet during 1952-53 and what was the business transacted?

Shri Karmarkar: The Board was reconstituted late in 1953. I could not give my friend the exact number of meetings that they held.